

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**CSBG Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
Sacramento – Community Services & Development Department  
700 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811**

**May 14, 2008**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Lunch – 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. - CSD Website Demonstration Update**

**Call in Number – 1-888-447-7153 – pin number 5653559#**

**Approval of February 13, 2008, minutes (5 minutes)**

**Director's Report – Lloyd Throne (20 minutes)**

**CSD Partnerships – Helga Lemke (20 minutes)**

- **Asset Development Funding**

**Associations Updates – (20 minutes)**

**CSBG/IS Survey – Leslie Taylor (10 minutes)**

**Prisoner Reentry Initiative Program Update – Sally Ly (10 minutes)**

**Remarkable Agency Programs – (30 minutes)**

- Merced County Community Action Agency – Brenda Callahan Johnson
  - Year- Round Emergency Homeless Shelter
- Kings Community Action Organization, Inc. – David Droker
  - County Grounds

**CSD Naturalization Providers Panel – (90 minutes)**

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton - Elvira Ramirez, Assistant
  - Director & Judy McDonnell, NSP Director
- Family Bridges - Wai Hung Fong, Social Services Manager
- Asian Resources, Inc, - Jenny Seto, Naturalization Coordinator
- Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles – Abraham Ross, Esq.
- Proteus, Inc. – Erica Mireles, Program Development Associate &
  - Ed Mata, Program Development Associate
- California Department of Education – Debra Jones, Division Director & Clifford Moss, Program Manager – El Civics

Lloyd Throne called the meeting to order at 10am and roll was taken.

## **Roll Call**

Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency  
Asian Resources, Inc.  
Associated Community Action Program  
Association of California Community and Energy Services  
California Department of Education  
California Human Development Corporation  
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership  
Campesinos Unidos, Inc.  
Catholic Charities - Stockton  
Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action  
Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.  
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc.  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
Community Action Partnership of Riverside County  
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County  
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County  
Community Design Center  
County of Nevada Community Development Agency  
Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco, Inc.  
Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County  
Family Bridges  
Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles  
Kings Community Action Organization. Inc.  
Lake County Community Action Agency  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Modoc-Siskiyou Community Action Agency  
Placer County  
Proteus, Inc.  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
San Joaquin County Dept. of Aging Children's & Community Services  
Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services

**Approval of February 13, 2008 minutes.** One correction was made to correct title of Riverside County Agency

## Director's Report

Lloyd Throne shared his thought on the upcoming election and the budget crisis. Congress returns this week with hopes of reaching a budget deal within the next month. Congress hopes to complete its' budget by April 15<sup>th</sup> to comply with the 1974 Budget Act. Negotiators must set a top-line discretionary spending limit for appropriations bills. Including advance funding and "cap adjustment", the House budget would allow \$25.4 billion more than the President proposed for discretionary spending the fiscal 2009. In contrast, the Senate budget would allow only \$21.8 billion more. Lloyd said that the State had a \$17.2 billion def. Lloyd said that the executive staff had been attending numerous legislative hearings and listening to many discussions on the naturalization services program. He said that the network and advocates have been active in preserving funding for the naturalization program. The key legislators acknowledged the work of the NSP providers. The Department's prisoner re-entry program staff received compliments from the Federal Department of Justice when they were at CSD during their monitoring visit. Huge compliments on the PRI program and the administration of the program as well. Regarding CSBG, he said CSD has been doing some strategic joint monitoring of agencies. CSD is learning about "best practices" from the agencies so we can share with the network. Lloyd stated that CSD and Cal/Neva are working collaboratively to enhance the T & TA program and make it available to the network. Lloyd mentioned that the newly formed Energy Council was aimed at looking at implementing strategies to enhance service delivery to the low-income people. CSD is on the verge of submitting a proposal to be the lead in a project aimed at installing solar panels on low-income homes. Proposal is due May 28, 2008. He said that CSD staff was working hard to develop partnerships and would submit a strong proposal. Lois Carson from Riverside asked if the Governor was interested in borrowing from future lottery spending. Lloyd responded and said that the Governor is supportive of spinning lottery off, but not sure if the legislators will support this idea. Lois applauds CSD on the solar initiative and asked who the external partners were. The answer was CCC and local CORPS, California Solar Installers Association and the Morgan Stanley Commodities Division. The goal of the proposal is to supply meaningful sized solar power at no out of pocket costs to consumer. Mike Micciche asked if this initiative was limited to the LIHEAP network. Renee' answered and said that CSD will look into that as there is a lot of need around this proposal. Biz Steinberg referenced the State budget and said there was concern that the State budget could be very late. She said this could be a huge problem for those agencies that access State funds for programs, especially childcare programs.

## **CSD Partnerships – Helga Lemke**

Helga Lemke from CSD said the RFP for CSBG funded entities was due on June 5<sup>th</sup> and encompasses various topics around asset development. Helga applauds CSD for leadership around tackling this issue. She is optimistic that we can leverage these funds into a larger initiative. Information was shared on Helga and Renee's meeting with the Director of the California Volunteers program. They said the program has been elevated to cabinet level. The Director is very enthusiastic and CSD was able to provide the department with information regarding the work of community action. The next step will be the discussion about possibly submitting a proposal for a statewide program benefiting community action. It is not the intent of CSD to apply for this money, CSD will just act as a catalyst for the network. Another subject that was discussed at the meeting is that the State would co-sponsor a conference in California that focuses on faith-based and community based organizations. These organizations are excited about having CSD participate. On the subject of Prisoner Re-entry, Helga would like feedback from the network on what services they are providing in this area. Helga would like to see CSD develop some concepts around how CSD could work with the Department of Corrections and provide services to this population.

## **Associations Updates**

The closing of the Santa Clara agency was the first subject to be discussed. Lloyd said the agency was beyond repair and he was proud that the agency closing did not create a ripple affect for the rest of the network. He promised transparency in choosing a new agency. The evaluation committee was formed which included public sector officials in Santa Clara, two CAA representatives and CSD staff. The committee has visited the finalists and a decision will be announced within two weeks. Shelly Hance from Amador-Tuolumne mentioned the concern of the agencies to make sure the federal dollars keep flowing. A suggestion was made that the agencies could write to the Governor's office and compliment the CSD program to support the federal funding to Community Services & Development. Tim Reese from Cal/Neva congratulated all the agencies that received additional funding. He also reminded the group of the upcoming Cal/Neva meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss financial planning and the State budget. Tim said the Citibank Assessment Program was moving along and he was looking for matching dollars. The Asset Development Learning Cluster proposal will apply for State T&T/A RFP, there are only three available. Tim said they might need letters of support. Cal/Neva hopes to present the California model of T&T/A in Chicago. Regarding the peer- to- peer program, the network was asked to complete the enrollment forms and submit them to the peer-to-peer skills bank. Tim also encouraged agencies interested in partnering with interfaith based agencies to get involved with the California Interfaith Coalition. On May 20<sup>th</sup> the legislative public policy committee will be meeting, see Tim

Reese if you are interested in participating. Lloyd Throne joined Tim in congratulating the network on SB 1376 supplemental increase. Lloyd gently suggested to the agencies receiving the supplement to use some creative thinking on the spending of these funds. Michael Micciche from La Coop shared with the group the sad passing of Deputy Director Art Naldoza. Art worked in legislation as a lobbyist. Mike discussed the Workforce Incentive Act and said it probably would not get reauthorized. An employment and training program will still exist, it just might look a little different. Mike encouraged all interested parties to voice their opinions and suggestions to the legislation. Brenda Callahan-Johnson from Merced shared her experiences while establishing a homeless shelter. The funds were received from Prop 46 money. Her agency had many difficulties finding a site to build on. They had to sign a 40 year lease and it became a 1.7 million dollar project. The building is 8000 square feet housing 60 single men and women, There is also a mobile medical clinic, a mental health worker and WIH worker on site. Brenda shared some lessons learned from the project with the network. She said to always ask questions, be realistic and don't make false promises. Expect construction costs to exceed budget by 20% and add twelve weeks to construction time. Any inquiries about the project should be offered a tour of building. She said to thoroughly review the change orders and visit the work site on a regular basis. Make sure the Board of Supervisors understands the process and the work taking place. She said to keep the faith, the bills will get paid and she reminded the network that Prop 46 funds are still available for the next two years. Diane Shakoore spoke on behalf of the Bay Area Poverty Resource Council and said they were hosting a forum and strategic planning session that would focus on asset building. Biz Steinberg from EOCof San Luis Obispo mentioned the NCAP conference in August, 2008. She said that she and the NCAP board were very pleased with the choice of Don Mathis and his leadership at NCAP. She also reminded the network of the CAPLAW conference in June, 2008 in Denver. Biz will sit on a panel at this conference which will focus on the Head Start regulations. Arlene Novotney from Southern California Forum said their Association was finishing the last installs of solar water heaters. She spoke about the development of the peer-to-peer training network.

#### **CSBG/IS Survey – Leslie Taylor - Need input**

#### **Prisoner Re-entry Program – Sally Ly**

Sally Ly from CSD said that the Department had applied for funding from the Federal Department of Justice. She said CSD worked with three partners, Second Chance, ACAP and CHD. The organizations met to discuss the logistics of the proposals and how to submit them. The funds were awarded in 2007. Sally said all of the PRI contracts had been awarded. Cal/Neva participated in the development of the grant and their agency was a big help. President Bush signed the Second Chance Act,

focusing on prisoner re-entry. Please sign up to participate in a conference call to discuss the Second Chance Act and how this act can benefit the network. Lloyd highlighted the importance of leveraging the PRI funds and the proven track record to increase the PRI funds to the network.

## **Remarkable Agency Programs**

Brenda Callahan-Johnson from Merced shared her experiences while establishing a homeless shelter. The funds were received from Prop 46 money. Her agency had many difficulties finding a site to build on. They had to sign a 40 year lease and it became a 1.7 million dollar project. The building is 8000 square feet housing 60 single men and women, There is also a mobile medical clinic, a mental health worker and WIH worker on site. Brenda shared some lessons learned from the project with the network. She said to always ask questions, be realistic and don't make false promises. Expect construction costs to exceed budget by 20% and add twelve weeks to construction time. Any inquiries about the project should be offered a tour of building. She said to thoroughly review the change orders and visit the work site on a regular basis. Make sure the Board of Supervisors understands the process and the work taking place. She said to keep the faith, the bills will get paid and she reminded the network that Prop 46 funds are still available for the next two years.

David Droker spoke on the county ground program at Kings Community Action Organization ----- need input

## **CSD Naturalization Providers Panel**

The following agencies sat on the panel:

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton - Elvira Ramirez, Assistant
  - Director & Judy McDonnell, NSP Director
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- Family Bridges - Wai Hung Fong, Social Services Manager
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- Asian Resources, Inc, - Jenny Seto, Naturalization Coordinator
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- Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles – Abraham Ross, Esq.
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- Proteus, Inc. – Erica Mireles, Program Development Associate &
  - Ed Mata, Program Development Associate
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- California Department of Education – Debra Jones, Division Director & Clifford Moss, Program Manager – El Civics

Rosa Hernandez opened the panel on Naturalization and introduced the participants. She said the panel would provide information on the program and their connection with the Department of Education. Debra Jones, Division Director and Clifford Moss, Program Manager sat on the panel from the Department of Education. Erica Mireles, Program Development Associate and Ed Mata, Program Development Associate spoke for Proteus, Inc., located in Visalia, an agency that represents the MSFW (Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers). Proteus, Inc. began their naturalization process in 1967. They service 72 non-profit groups in the Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno areas. You can receive free assistance with the completion of the application (N-400) and then you can attend the classes at Proteus to learn US history, laws and other necessary information to pass the test. The representative for Family Bridges, Inc. located in Oakland was Wai Hung Fong, their Social Services Manager. Family Bridges was originally formed as the Oakland Chinese Community Council in 1968 as a storefront information and referral service to the growing Chinese immigrant population in the Oakland area. The mission of Family Bridges, Inc. is to empower the most vulnerable members of the Asian community, especially the elderly, the newcomers and those with limited English language skills, by providing them with assistance necessary for them to lead self-sufficient, independent lives. Abraham Ross, Esq. sat on the panel from the Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles. He said they started their naturalization program in 1995. They mainly help the elderly and disabled clients with the naturalization process. He said their organization had two immigration attorneys on staff. Mr. Ross said that the increase in the fee was presenting a problem to those in need. He said that they try to get the fees waived, but these requests are usually denied. He said sometimes they can get a medical waiver, however, these require documentation from a physician and that can sometimes be difficult to obtain. He also said that if the client was over 65 and receiving Social Security, they can sometimes expedite the citizenship paperwork. The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton spoke next. Judy McDonnell, NSP Director and Elvira Ramirez, Assistant Director said that the naturalization program faced many challenges. One of those challenges was the increase in the fee. Judy said that the clients will obtain the necessary documents but many do not have the money to submit the application. She said their staff has downsized, so it has been more difficult dealing with all of the paperwork required for the NSP process. She also said that the application processing times are longer than before and that the background checks take longer to get back. She also mentioned about the change in the citizenship test. The clients will have a choice to take the old test or the new test. Jenny Seto, Naturalization Coordinator represented Asian Resources, Inc. They are located in Sacramento and have been committed to helping the limited English-speaking and low-income communities for 25 years. Asian Resources collaborates with other public and private agencies to get their work done. They offer citizenship classes under their naturalization program and also have a job placement assistance service for recent arrivals to the U.S.